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Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

Transportation Committee

Senate Chamber

State of Tennessee

Senator Mae Beavers State Senator 17th District Received & Inspected

MAR 1 1 2013

FCC Mail Room

March 3, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW Room TW-A325 Washington, DC 20554

Re:

Petition for waiver of North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

WC Docket No. 10-90, E x Parte Filing

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As members of the Tennessee Legislature we urge the Commission to act promptly to grant the petition of North Central Telephone Cooperative ("NCTC") for waiver of section 36.605 of the Commissions' rules.

NCTC is the recipient of a \$49M American Recovery and Reinvestment Act half loan, half grant. Consistent with the FCC's National Broadband Plan, NCTC has invested an additional amount of more than \$11M to deploy Broadband in its' rural Tennessee service area since 2008. NCTC reasonably determined that its revenues available under the FCC rules would be sufficient to meet their deployment goals.

The FCC's Transformation order eliminated the Safety Net Additive Support that NCTC had qualified by investing in its network (and not by loss of lines) according to FCC rules which were in place at the time.

Unless this waiver is granted soon, NCTC will be forced to defer improvements in some of its service area. We in the state of Tennessee are counting on NCTC's Broadband initiative to be a major factor in creating jobs for this rural and low income portion of our state.

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Three million dollars over the next five years is a huge number for this cooperative and area of rural Tennessee and we urge you to approve NCTC's request for waiver as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Senator Mae Beavers

Senatorial District

Representative Kelly Keisling

Representative District 38

Representative Terri Lynn Weaver

Representative District 40

cc: Rebekah Goodheart

Joseph Cavender